

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of research that reveals the problems emerge in this research. This chapter covers background, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background

Everyone has a freedom of expression in writing included the writers. They are free to write whatever is on their mind. The struggle of feeling is then mixed with a sense of their engagement to the reality of life. Through the beauty of the words, sensitive things to power and authority can be expressed freely though a bit risky because the authorities are not less sensitive to the satire and irony in literature that show a resistance.

Satire it self is one of the literary genres that is used to describe work of art including literature and is used to mock or ridicule a person or thing. Although satire is usually used to make becoming a humor but its purpose is more constructive social criticism with using wit as a weapon. Abrams then adds,

Satire can be described as the literary art of diminishing or derogating a subject by making it ridiculous and evoking toward it attitudes of amusement, contempt, scorn, or indignation. It differs from the *comic* in that comedy evokes laughter mainly as an end in itself, while satire derides; that is, it uses laughter as a weapon, and against a butt that exists outside the work itself....Satire occurs as an incidental element

within many works whose overall mode is not satiric—in a certain character or situation, or in an interpolated passage of ironic commentary on some aspect of the human condition or of contemporary society. But for some literary writings, verse or prose, the attempt to diminish a subject by ridicule is the primary organizing principle, and these works constitute the formal *genre* labeled “satires.” (275-276)

Abrams’s explanation above is supported by LeBoeuf (5), “satire uses irony, often in a humorous way, to point out the problems with the behavior being critiqued.” From the explanations of Abrams and LeBoeuf above, it means that satire occurs in humorous way by using irony to expose some aspects of human condition.

A study of satire can be found more in the 2000s. The researcher found in the theses such as the thesis from the other country, exactly is made by Wan Yinghua from Shanghai Normal University (2007) entitled “Towards Satire in *Vanity Fair*”, Yinghua said that William Makepeace Thackeray’s *Vanity Fair* is full of strategic schemes of satire such as constant sarcastic commentaries, caricatures such as constant sarcastic commentaries, caricatures and satiric ending that describe characteristic of society and human minds in the nineteenth century which is euphemistic and profound in meaning. The other thesis from the other country is made by Olanrewaju Omolola Abisola from University of Ilorin, Ilorin-Nigeria (2011) entitled “Satire and Social Mediation in Wole Soyinka’s: A Case Study of *The Trials of Brother Jero And*

A Play Of Giants, he focuses on economic, social and politic problems to satirize society in Africa by applying sociological literary approach.

The other theses are such as Moh. Khorl (2010) entitled “Social Class and Political Satire in Mark Twain’s *The Prince and The Pauper*”, Khorl explained satire in Mark Twain’s *The Prince and The Pauper* by applying sociological literary approach to describe English social class and political experience around 1880s in which Twain emphasizes on humanitarian message through satirical setting and main point of the satire. Indii Irhamni Rosyadaa (2007) with title “Satire on English Middle Class Society Reflected in William Makepeace Thackeray *Vanity Fair*”, Rosyadaa explained satire on the England middle class society in William Makepeace Thackeray’s *Vanity Fair* by using sociological analysis and genetic structuralism analysis through the characters and the society that appears in the novel in which Thackeray uses some family portrait to describe the England middle class society at that time.

Meanwhile, in State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, the researcher found a thesis that is made by Hero Roja’ul Khoir entitled “Shavian Satire as the Art of Criticism: the Contest of Idea”. According to Khoir, in George Bernard Shaw’s *Major Barbara* and *Man and Superman* saturates the manipulative principle by proposing the contest of idea. The feature of Shavian satire is the fact that exposes the contemporary value through argumentation of intentional reasoned that is stated by the characters in plays and the proposition of the new formal dramatic structure and both plays are determined by the socio-historical circumstances. The similarity between this

research and the theses that the researcher explained above is using theory of satire with defining of satire and applying the concept of irony to know satire itself which is supported by historical context. Meanwhile, the differences are this research and the theses that the researcher explained above are object, problems and in applying literary criticism theory. Thus, the researcher tries to fill the void by analyzing the satire by applying the concept of irony to know satire itself which is supported by historical context and theory of Marxist to know some problems that will be explained.

According to Bennet (295) satire is the humorous presentation of human folly or vice in such a way as to make it look ridiculous, e.g. Jonathan Swift's *A Modest Proposal*. Fletcher then states,

“The great range of the satires which make the greater part of Swift's work is supported in part by variety of satiric method. Sometimes he pours out a savage direct attack. Sometimes, in a long ironical statement, he says exactly the opposite of what he really means to suggest...Swift, then, is the greatest of English satirists and the only one who as a satirist claims large attention in a brief general survey of English literature.” (91).

From the explanations of Bennet and Fletcher could be concluded that Jonathan Swift's *A Modest Proposal* is a satire literary work that represents human folly in order to look ridiculous and Swift is the great satirist who uses irony to support his satiric method. *A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People From Being a Burden on Their Parents or Country,*

and for Making Them Beneficial to the Publick, commonly referred to as *A Modest Proposal* is an essay written by Jonathan Swift in 1729.

Swift is very neat in writing social criticisms where he lived at that time sharply and loudly through his satire is Swift famous for it. In the researcher's opinion, this is a literary satire toward economic and social conditions of the Irish people was under the rule of the England. Besides, it is Swift's intellectual ideas as a form of protest against English people in power at the time with the rule much damaged Irish people. This case inspired Swift to write this essay with some ridiculous suggestions to solve some problems in this essay. He pours his complaints how backward and poor social life in Ireland is sharply satirical manner in which he suggested exploiting the children as food and their skin used clothing to increase the economy and prosperity of society at the time.

1.2 Statement of Problem

From background of study above the researcher wants to study and dissect the specifics of how Swift construct his satirical ideas occurs through ridiculous of economic and social problems in this literary work. In addition, some problems also related to the historical context at the time as historical facts wrapped in this literary work. The problem is formulated into questions:

1. How do Swift's ridiculous ways make economic and social problems becoming a satire in his *A Modest Proposal*?
2. What do Swift's ridiculous ways mean in making economic and social problems become a satire in his *A Modest Proposal*?

1.3 Research Objective

The purposes of this research are:

1. To find out Swift's ridiculous ways in making economic and social problems become a satire in his *A Modest Proposal*.
2. To find out the meaning of Swift's ridiculous ways in making economic and social problems become a satire in his *A Modest Proposal*.

1.4 Research Significance

Academically, this research is directed to students of English Department particularly and the reader generally for further this research could be as an analysis and a reference. Practically, this research is directed to those who are interested in this research or who are excited in Jonathan Swift's work.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Satire in this research means the technique of holding human folly and vices to mock or ridicule a person or thing. As Reaske (40) said, "Satire is the technique of holding human vices, stupidities, etc, up for contempt, usually with an aim to reform. It is usually directed at ideas, institution, or governments, rather than at individuals."
2. Economic in this research relates to the principles of production, distribution, consumption of goods and wealth.

3. Social in this research refers to the object that is society. It shows on activities that are done to solve problems faced by the people in the welfare of the space scope of work and social welfare.
4. Problems in this research means things are difficult to understand and achieve. The things will be explained in this research are economic and social problems.

